

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Abstract is amended as follows:

A virtual insurance producer Web site is provided at which a prospective insurance customer may request a bindable premium quotation for an insurance policy. ~~The prospective customer may be asked to provide information relating to the insurability of an individual to be insured by the insurance policy and information relating to the coverage to be provided by the insurance policy. The virtual insurance producer Web site is operative to request underwriting information regarding the individual from one or more outside information resources. Using the information provided by the prospective customer and the underwriting information received from the external data vendors, the virtual insurance producer Web site determines whether the requested insurance policy may be underwritten.~~ If the policy may be underwritten, the Web site calculates a premium for the insurance policy. The premium is displayed to the prospective customer as a bindable quotation that binds the insurance company providing the policy and that may be purchased on-line immediately. The prospective customer may purchase the insurance policy according to the provided bindable premium quotation through the virtual insurance producer Web site. If the prospective customer elects to purchase the policy, the virtual insurance producer Web site may re-intermediate an insurance agent into the sales process and transmit the insurance policy to the customer in electronic form.

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